



Advising Scottish Ministers
on Accessible Travel

MACS



Board Meeting Minutes



31 January 2023



Easy Read



In this document **MACS** means the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland.



This meeting was from 11am to 2pm.

It was an online meeting.

Who was there?

Linda Bamford, Convener

Hilary Stubbs, Vice Convener

Audrey Birt

Caroline Barile

David Hunter

Elliot Cooper

Graham Dunn

Joanne Devitt

Lesley Macinnes





Lynsey Shovlin

Michael Tornow

Naghat Ahmed

Simon Watkins

Susan Fulton

Secretariat

Vanessa Altweck

Ally Nelson – Head of Secretariat



From the Transport Scotland team

Steven Dora – Deputy Sponsor, Accessible Travel Policy Team Lead

John Maxwell – Sponsor

Lucy Logan – Accessible Travel Policy Adviser

Jacqueline Macdonald – Rail Accessibility and Policy Manager



1 – Welcome



Hello

Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said that Heather Still was leaving and she thanked her for her work as a member.

2 – Welcome to new members



Linda welcomed the new members in the meeting.

Everyone shared their own name and what their job was.



New Action Point 1:

Vanessa and Ally will share the new members email addresses and phone numbers with the group.

3 – Meeting Minutes and Action Points



Linda said that these Action Points are closed:

- Action Point 1
- Action Points 4 to 6
- Action Points 8 and 9



Action Points 2, 7 and 10 are still open.



Linda asked Ally to open Action Point 3 again because it hasn't been finished yet.



For Action Points 2 and 10, Linda asked Steven to say what is happening with **inclusive design** guidance.



Inclusive Design means making sure that buildings and things like pathways are built so that they can be used by as many people as possible.



Steven said that he needed more time and support to work on the guidance.



New Action Point 2:

Steven will finish the inclusive design guidance and give it to:

- the **Accessible Travel** Working Group by the middle of February
- **MACS Committee** by the end of February



Accessible travel means making sure that vehicles and places like stations are designed so that as many people as possible can use them easily.



Hilary and Steven talked about meeting with the **aviation** team.

Aviation means transport like planes.



Hilary was unhappy that she had not been invited to meet with the aviation teams and Transport Scotland.

Steven said that MACS and Hilary were going to be invited to these meetings later on.



New Action Point 3:

Vanessa and Ally will organise a video call or a phone call between Hilary and the aviation team.



For Action Point 3, David asked if this could stay open.



He said that before the pandemic, MACS was part of the Delivery Board helping the National Transport Strategy 2 to happen.

But during lockdown, this was changed and MACS were not part of the Delivery Board anymore.



David said that 1 of the main aims of the National Transport Strategy 2 is to try and stop travel being unfair to disabled people.

It is harder now for MACS to help make good changes.



New Action Point 4:

Vanessa and Ally will get in touch with Transport Scotland to find out more clearly how MACS can help with the National Transport Strategy 2.



Linda said that some Action Points are not being done quick enough.

She asked everyone to work on Action Points quicker after each Board meeting.



4 – Update from the Sponsor Team



Steven asked if anyone had any questions for Transport Scotland – the Sponsor Team.



Simon asked about the **Accessible Travel Framework** and what was happening next.

The **Accessible Travel Framework** is a 10 year plan about making public transport better for disabled people.



Steven said:

- he is doing a webinar with Disability Equality Scotland in February
- there will be a report in March
- there will be a new delivery plan



Susan said that lots of things were happening in active travel.

But MACS was often left out.

She asked if the Accessible Travel Team could speak up for MACS when they worked with other active travel staff.



There was lots of talk about **Low Emission Zones**

Low Emission Zones are also called LEZs.

Low Emission Zones are areas in some cities which stop vehicles that have harmful gases - like petrol cars – from driving there.

This keeps the air cleaner.



There was talk about:

- accessible taxis being allowed in LEZs
- some disabilities being hidden and hard to see
- taxi drivers needing to make changes to their taxis quickly



New Action Point 5:

Lucy will find out more about

- accessible vehicles being allowed into LEZs
- funding for making taxis more accessible



There was more talk about:

- Blue Badge holders needing more information about LEZs
- Transport Scotland's exemption website





New Action Point 6:

Vanessa and Ally will ask Lucy and the Low Emission Zones Team to share the plans to tell Blue Badge holders more about LEZs.



Linda thanked Lucy for her updates.

She said that she wanted to see the same action for supporting disabled people to travel as under-22 people get.



Linda said the Equality and Human Rights Directorate are writing a disability **strategy**.

A **strategy** is a plan to make something better.



She said that MACS had asked to join in last year.

Vanessa said that the members of the group had already been decided.



New Action Point 7:

Vanessa, Ally and the Sponsor Team will talk with Equality and Human Rights Directorate to see how MACS can help write the disability strategy.



Elliot said that rail staff had told him there were no ramps at rail stations.

Jacqueline said that some rail stations do have ramps.

Many ramps have been taken away because of safety rules.

But she hopes that they will be put back again after the first part of the ScotRail project happens.



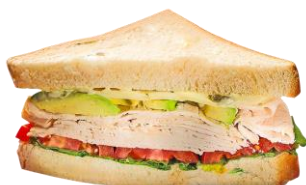
Susan asked if Equality Impact Assessments had been written when the ramps were taken away.

Simon said he had got copies of the Assessments and he would show Susan.



There was some talk about:

- new ramps being needed on board trains as well as at stations
- problems when there were no rail staff there to put ramps down
- different types of ramps



There was a break in the meeting for lunch.



5 – Agreeing the new work plans for 2023 to 2024 and talking about the review of the groups people work in



Linda explained the the work plan for 2023 to 2024.

She also explained the groups that people will be working in.

These are called **workstreams**.

A few last changes were made and everyone agreed.



New Action Point 8:

Linda will send the work plans to Vanessa and Ally.

They will send them to the Minister for Transport to get the plans agreed.

6 – Key Messages for Twitter



David said he would put the work plans on Twitter when they are ready to be shared.

There was some talk about

- getting more people to help put things on Twitter
- sharing MACS Twitter messages from personal Twitter accounts
- a Twitter rota



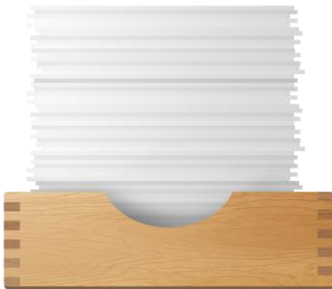


7 - Any Other Business – was there anything else that people wanted to talk about?



New Action Point 9:

Vanessa and Ally will send round the meeting list for 2023 to 2024 again.



There was some talk about:

- paperwork that the Lead staff members need to send to Ally
- newsletters and workplans
- paperwork for the new members

8 – End of Meeting



Linda thanked everyone for coming and she closed the meeting.